>

Title: Regarding denial of pension to the Freedom Fighters under Swatantrata Sainik Samman Scheme of the Centre to the people of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI C.K. CHANDRAPPAN (TRICHUR): This is an important problem. Actually, it is a matter of shame because India became independent 60 years ago, but there are thousands of freedom fighters even today who are not given their pension though it was due. In my State, Kerala, there are 3-4 very important struggles that took place during the period 1945-1946, namely, the Punnapra-Vayalar Struggle, the Kayyur Struggle -- that took place even long before --, the Kavumpai Struggle and other struggles.

Further, if you take the case of Andhra Pradesh, there is the Telangana Armed Struggle. These people are denied their freedom fighters' pension on some bureaucratic grounds. It is very unfair because we all know that it was because of their sacrifices that we are sitting here and discharging our duties as Members of Parliament. Therefore, I would request you to tell the Government to constitute a Committee of Members of Parliament instead of leaving these cases to the sweet will of bureaucracy. This Committee could look into the whole issue of pending freedom fighters' pension, and if these cases could be disposed within a stipulated time, say one year, then that would do a very big justice for these freedom fighters, who fought and made sacrifices for our country. I hope that the Government will do it, and I hope that you will also use your good office for this purpose.

*m02

DR. K.S. MANOJ (ALLEPPEY): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Chandrappan in the House.[r80]